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## **AN INTERVIEW WITH MS. ANNISA SMITH**



I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Ms. Annisa Smith. Annisa is a print model and actress who is based in New York. She has been featured in campaigns for Samsung, Microsoft, Delta Airlines, Vivitrol, New York Life Insurance, as well as many others. Annisa also has appeared in various promos for CBS News as well as commercials for Zicam and eBay. In 2016, Annisa was 1 of 18 models chosen to share the stage with pop culture and music icon, Beyoncé, for her MTV Video Music Awards performance at Madison Square Garden in New York. Originally from Dominica, Ms. Smith moved to New York at the age of 11. Annisa eventually attended Hunter College in New York City where she obtained a degree in History. After graduation, Annisa got her first taste of the fashion industry by working in some of Ralph Lauren's men's and women's New York City flagship stores. Although a modeling career always peaked her interest, it wasn't until Annisa began assisting at various Ralph Lauren fashion shows, that she soon wanted to turn her dream into a reality. She is currently living out her dream and is currently doing freelance work with "Abbey Lynn Models" and "Bella Agency New York."

**Q: What inspires you to go forward and pursue your dreams?**

**A:** “Modeling is something that I’d always do. I decided to pursue it when I found the courage to believe in myself. It’s [modeling] always been a dream. I believe that we’ve all been given a gift and I believe that this [modeling] is my gift. You are fortunate with a gift, so it’s only fair that you give it back to the universe and put it back out there. I want to keep inspiring people and I want to do what I’ve always wanted to do.”

**Q: What advice do you have for someone trying to get into the acting or modeling field?**

**A:** “For someone that is trying to get into the industry, I would say stay true to yourself. One person’s “no,” is another person’s “yes.” You are going to get a lot of “no’s,” before you get that one “yes.” You may be lucky to get that “yes” the first time. But just because you got the “yes” the first time, doesn’t mean that it’s going to be a green light all the way. You’re going to hit ups and downs, and you must celebrate the highs and the lows of the industry. Because without having the low parts, you won’t be able to appreciate the high parts. You must invest in the industry. What you put in is what you get. There are times when you are booking [modeling jobs] constantly. Whether it’s commercials, print-ups, or movie roles. But there will be times when you’re not getting anything and you’re probably not being sent out on auditions. Or you’re being sent out on auditions and you’re not booking anything or you’re being put on hold for jobs and then get released from the job holding. That isn’t an easy thing to deal with, but you must stay out of your head and look at the industry as it’s “in season.” So, when you’re doing really good, someone else is probably [not] doing as good as you are doing. So, the times that you aren’t doing really good, there is someone else that is doing good when you [aren’t]. And when there are times that you aren’t doing good, you must keep yourself busy because it is a business and it’s “your” business. So, if you’re not booking anything, you must invest in your money. Whether it’s having new photos taken [or] new headshots. You’ve always got to be busy because it’s going to harvest. It is like you are a farmer and you have to plant the seeds before the trees grow.”

**Q: How do you respond to setbacks when pursuing your dreams?**

**A:** “With setbacks I tend to block them off. If I feel like they’re [setbacks] beginning to consume me and I’m starting to get in my own head, I will go to church. I live in New York, so I’ll go to like St. Patrick’s Cathedral and I’ll sit there and pray and meditate. Then also I’ll reflect on the things I do have that I need to be thankful for. Sometimes I’ll make a list of the things that I’ve done and then I reflect on the past years and I’m like “I’ve done x, y, z and that I’ve been busy.” So, I try to not let setbacks really get to me. I meditate a lot when it comes to that.”

**Q: How can our audience get in contact with you?**

**A:** “Well my Instagram is (@annisa\_smith) and my Facebook is Annisa Smith.”

I'd like to thank Ms. Annisa Smith for conducting this interview with K.I.S.H. Magazine and on behalf of our editor-in-chief Dr. Kishma George.

You can also check out Annisa's website at <https://www.annisasmith.com> (<https://www.annisasmith.com>)  
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